(iv) Participation of private sector for setting up of freight terminals is being attempted. A pilot project near Gurgaon has been undertaken for this purpose.

(v) A scheme for running mini rakes has been notified in order to cater to demand for less than train load short lead traffic.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Hill puffer trains**

†711. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to run the hill puffer trains;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) There is nothing known as hill puffer train on Indian Railways. Steam trains are already in operation on New Jalpaiguri-Darjeeling section. Proposals for introduction of steam trains on Neral-Matheran and Kalka-Shimla hill sections are under consideration. The decision will be taken subject to viability of the project and availability of funds.

**Railway Zones without General Managers**

712. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three Zonal Railways, namely Eastern, South Eastern and Metro Headquartered in Kolkata are presently Headless, with no General Managers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether such a situation is affecting implementation of projects under these Railways; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Due to promotion of earlier incumbents, the posts of General Managers of Eastern, South Eastern and Metro Railways had fallen vacant. Pending empanelment/appointment of suitable eligible officers, General Managers of adjacent Railways have been made to look after the work of these Railways.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Allocation for West Bengal in Railway Budgets**

713. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the projects proposed and money allocated for West Bengal in 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 Railway Budgets;

(b) the status of their implementation and the details of constraints, if any, in implementation of these projects; and

(c) the steps contemplated to overcome them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The projects proposed and money allocated for West Bengal in Railway Budget 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. the status of their implementation and the steps contemplated to overcome them are given in the statement.